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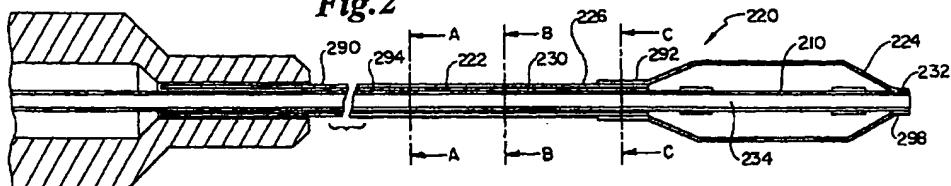
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(54) Tri-layer extruded medical tubing and medical devices incorporating such tubing

(57) The present invention provides a length of tri-layer, extruded, medical tubing (10) comprising an outer layer (16), a core layer (12), and an intermediate tie layer (14). The outer layer (16) comprises a polymer that is directly bondable, while the core layer (12) comprises a lubricious polymer. The core layer (12) thus defines a lumen (15) that exhibits the desired characteristics, i.e., low friction for the advancement of a

guidewire or catheter through the lumen without comprising the strength and stiffness that is desirable in tubing that is to be used in medical devices. Additionally, the tubing (10) is easily coextruded and yet, is not subject to delamination, thus providing the added advantage of providing a reduction in the overall cost of manufacture.

Fig. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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A	US 4 636 346 A (SMITH ET AL.) 13 January 1987 * abstract; claims 4-7; figures 2,3,6-8 *	1-43	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	13 April 1999	Michels, N	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document S : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

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